

## *Meeting Minutes*

### *Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council*

*June 14-15, 2012*

*Carson City, Nevada*

#### **I. RAC Attendance and Welcome**

8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 14, 2012 – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Will Peterson with the following members of the RAC present:

##### **SIERRA FRONT–NORTHWESTERN GREAT BASIN RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<b><i>COUNCIL MEMBER</i></b>	<b><i>RESOURCE/EXPERTISE</i></b>	<b><i>06/14/2012</i></b>
<i>Will Roger Peterson (Chair)</i>	Recreation	X
<i>Craig Young (Vice Chair)</i>	Archaeology	X
<i>Tim Dufurrena</i>	Livestock Permittee	X
<i>Verl Ray Hendrix</i>	Livestock Permittee	X
<i>Kyle Snyder</i>	Energy/Minerals	X
<i>Deborah Lassiter</i>	Energy/Minerals	X
<i>Mathew Gingerich</i>	Transportation/ROWs	X
<i>David Von Seggern</i>	Environmental	X
<i>William Molini</i>	Wildlife	X
<i>Mark Freese</i>	State Agency	X
<i>Charles Matton</i>	Wild Horses & Burros	X
<i>Jim Billingsley</i>	Elected Official	X
<i>Michael P. Drews</i>	Public-At-Large	
<i>Douglas Hogan</i>	Academic	
<i>Wayne Burke</i>	Native Americans	X

**BLM Staff Present:** Chris McAlear, Bryant Smith, Mike Truden, Lisa Ross, Leon Thomas, Alan Bittner, Colleen Sievers, Terri Knutson, Linda Kelly, Pilar Ziegler, Laren Mermejo, (11)

**Public Present:** Karen Dallett, Jolyn Laubacher, Bonnie Kohleriter, Alex Bacchus, (4)

## **II. Summary of Motions Other Than to Approve Minutes**

1. Willie Molini made the motion to approve Jeff Barker as a new member to the Black Rock subgroup. Tim Dufurrena seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
2. Willie Molini made the motion that David Von Seggern will be the Carson City RMP contact for the SFNWGB RAC. Chuck Matton seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

## **III. Welcome & Introductions**

Will Peterson welcomed all and called the meeting to order. Chris McAlear introduced Leon Thomas, Sierra Front Field Manager.

## **IV. Minutes from January meeting in Las Vegas**

- Mark Freese made the motion to approve the minutes with the addition that two subgroups were formed for sage-grouse and grazing in the breakout session (will be on the Winnemucca agenda in Sept.). Willie seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

## **V. RAC Subcommittee Reports**

- **Black Rock Subgroup** – See motion #1. Will reported that the subgroup will be meeting on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Wild Horse and Burro Subgroup** – Chuck Matton – No report
- **Sage-grouse** – Willie Molini – No subgroup meetings have occurred.
- **Grazing** – No report

## **VI. District Manager Reports**

- Winnemucca: Mike Truden, Humboldt River Field Manager – See DM report

During the Winnemucca District Manager's report concerning the 2012 Burning Man permit renewal and 2011 permit violations, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Chairman Wayne Burke discussed the approval by BLM for the Burning Man event, for a growing

number of participants and the impact on the Tribe concerning costs associated with emergency response, the police department, and environmental issues on tribal lands. RAC Chairman Will Peterson responded that Burning Man creates an economic benefit to the tribe from Burning Man participants by purchasing at tribal venues during the Burning Man event. During the discussion, Chairman Will Peterson stated “Chairman to Chairman” when addressing Tribal Chairman Wayne Burke. Chairman Wayne Burke left the meeting and did not attend for the rest of the day, or the following day for the field trip. Chairman Will Peterson publicly apologized for his comment to Chairman Wayne Burke and stated he would be sending Tribal Chairman Wayne Burke a letter of apology along with calling him. A letter was sent to Tribal Chairman Wayne Burke from Chairman Will Peterson and a letter of reply was sent back from Tribal Chairman Wayne Burke to Chairman Will Peterson (both letters in the official file).

- Carson City: Bryant Smith, District Manager – See DM report

### **XIII. CC District RMP – Colleen Sievers, CCDO**

The Carson City District Resource Management Plan (RMP) planning area covers nine million acres and is in 11 counties and two states. Fifty invitations were sent to cooperating agencies and nineteen accepted. Six public scoping meetings were held in March 2012 with the public comment period ending the end of April 2012. Approximately 4200 comments were received with 245 unique comments. The primary concerns included: recreation; travel management; wild horse and burros; urban interface; use conflicts; sage-grouse; special designations; and wildlife. Socio Economic workshops are scheduled for June 27, 2012 in Carson City, NV and June 28, 2012 in Fallon, NV. Travel workshops are planned for August 2012 in Fallon, Reno, and Minden, NV. Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACEC) nominations will be accepted until the first of July. There are six existing ACEC’s currently in the CCD RMP. The Draft RMP is scheduled by Feb 2014 and final by Feb 2015.

It was discussed what the RAC’s role will be in the Carson City RMP process. Colleen explained there will be one contact for the RAC (see motion #2 above) and under the Code of Federal Regulations, the RAC does not qualify for Cooperating Agency status. The RAC RMP contact will receive invitations to the Carson City RMP planning meetings.

### **XIV. Carson Wandering Skipper – Pilar Ziegler, CCDO**

The Carson Wandering Skipper was discovered at a site in Carson City in 1965. The butterfly was listed by the USFWS in August 2002. The females lay their

eggs on salt grass, so need salt grass to survive. Soil types in different areas dictate occurrence of the salt grass. Because of small populations, the butterfly is susceptible to various hazards including habitat destruction, degradation, along with urban and residential development, wetland habitat modification, non-native plant invasion, agricultural practices such as excessive livestock grazing, and naturally occurring events. There are four population sites that have been discovered for the butterfly . The last survey done for the butterfly was in 2011.

## **XVIII. Lands Bills and Proposals – Alan Bittner, CCDO**

### **1. Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (OPLMA)**

Land conveyance of Silver Saddle Ranch, Prison Hill, Ambrose and other properties to Carson City (3,604 acres). BLM also will convey 1,848 acres to Carson City for Parks & Public Purposes. An EA has been done and the Cultural Programmatic Agreement is headed for solicitor review. Carson City's Open Space Plan is headed for more public hearings (related to canyon acquisitions). Surveys are still needed along Hwy 50, Flint Drive and Eastgate Road. Sale parcels need delegation of authority from Interior. Forest Service Conveyance of 935 acres is complete.

### **2. Yerington Land Conveyance and Sustainable Development Act (HR 4039 and S 2228)**

The bill would transfer 10,000+ acres of public land to the City of Yerington for economic and other development including an expansion of Nevada Copper's Pumpkin Hollow mine site. The City of Yerington has been working with private business partners on a sustainable development plan. The bill claims there is very few environmental, historical, wildlife or cultural resources of value on these lands. This land transfer would be done with money from the City of Yerington and Nevada Copper. The timeframe for the transfer is 90 days after enactment. The City of Yerington contracted a cultural class III inventory on these lands. The House Sub-Committee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on April 17, 2012. BLM did not support the bill because the lands sought are not identified for disposal in Carson City District's current RMP. The bill was marked up and reported to the Committee on June 7, 2012.

### **3. Small Lands Tracts Conveyance Act (HR 4976)**

The bill would transfer federal lands of < 160 acres to land owners that share one or more boundaries with the tract. Must be an area with 500+ people, not subject to non-fed rights, no exceptional resources and not habitat for Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species. Sale monies would be split 50/50 with the county and the US Treasury unless buyer is local government. Purchaser pays for costs of transfer including the appraisal. Timeframe for completed transfers is 18 months. NEPA exempt: not a major federal action, no significant impact on

critical habitat or T&E habitat, no critical environmental or exceptional resources. Any designated lands would be excluded. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry on May 10, 2012.

**XIX. Sage-grouse Update** – Lauren Mermejo, NSO – Explained the National Webpage for Sage-grouse. The Great Basin currently has 11 Environmental Assessments (EA) being drafted. The goal is for all to work together, so all entities are using the same measurements for analysis. BLM and the USDA Forest Service both manage portions of sage-grouse habitat lands. By 2015, the USFWS needs to make a decision as far as listing of the sage-grouse. The Draft is expected in March/April 2013 and the Decision Record in 2014. There were 26 scoping meetings held with five being held in Nevada. 30,500 form letters were received with 585 unique submissions. The FS along with the BLM participated in the scoping process. The Range of Alternatives is currently being crafted.

**XX. National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)/Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative – Linda Kelly, NSO**

Linda explained that the NLCS growth from 2000 to 2011 was substantial for the NLCS. The NLCS includes 63 Wilderness Study Areas and three National Conservation Areas in the state of NV. There are six national BLM programs in the Division of Education, Interpretation and Partnerships including: Environmental Education, Heritage Education, Youth, Interpretation, Volunteers, and Partnerships. The 2010-2025 15-Year Strategy will provide future direction to guide shared stewardship, facilitate community benefits, increase consistency, enhance protection, and improve management. The Strategy Implementation Plan will include a 11-member inter-Directorate group. There is an NLCS meeting scheduled for July in Albuquerque where the WO and employees from each state will share information about the strategy. A BLM NSO team was put together which includes eleven members to put together a NV strategy using the same four themes as the National Strategy. The final NV strategy is expected by the end of Sept. 2012.

- **XXI. Permittee Meeting Outreach** – Terri Knutson, CCDO, SWFO  
The Range program within the Stillwater Field Office (SWFO) is over 3.9 million acres with 36 grazing allotments and eight Herd Management Areas. There are three range management specialists within the SWFO and a total of 22 permittees. The biannual meetings (May & August) are conducted by the BLM and all SWFO permittees are invited to attend. The meeting is casual and is a round-table format scheduled around grazing schedules. The reason for the

meetings are to get to know each other, resolve issues at the local level and to provide information to permittees on emerging issues. In attendance are the grazing Permittees, Range Management Specialists and Technicians, Field Manager and Assistant Field Manager. Issues discussed during the meetings include drought conditions, Wild Horses, sage-grouse, recreation issues, and military operations on public lands, etc.

## **XXII. Public Comment Period –**

1. Karen Dalett - Executive Director of Friends of the Black Rock//High Rock Supports the BLM Landscape Approach. She reported the membership of Friends of the BR/HR is approximately 2500 people. Currently are looking at being partners for the Landscape Approach to conserve, protect, and restore. They are partnering with Hycroft and working with UNR to develop a map of springs. Also, are working as a partner with Carson City and Winnemucca BLM. Reported on horseback tours in High Rock Canyon.
2. Chairman Peterson read a letter submitted from Bonnie Kohleriter to Gene Seidlitz addressing the Jackson Mountain's Wild Horse Gather.

Will stated that a letter of support from RAC for the Jackson Gather was drafted and sent.

## **XXIII. Adjournment**

### **6/15//12 Field Trip**

- Stead Airport Tour and Brunch
- Chickadee Staging Area – Discussion on Public Land Access & Partnership Projects
- Hungry Valley sites – Target shooting, Recreation & Public Purposes
- Moon Rocks – Discussion on grazing permit, recreation issues, sage-grouse, etc.
- Carson Wander Skipper – ACEC, discussion on Glider Port

**The next RAC meeting will be September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Winnemucca.**